

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Prior to execution of application software by a computer terminal, the computer terminal is connected to an electronic key and initiates a registration procedure with a remote server so as to obtain a software registration code that is stored in each of the computer terminal and the electronic key. Thereafter, it is only when the computer terminal is connected to the electronic key, and when the software registration code stored in the computer terminal matches that stored in the electronic key will subsequent execution of the application software by the computer terminal be enabled. The method as such can discourage software piracy.